GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5827
ANSWERED ON:10.04.2017
Scientists at IISER
Venkatesh Babu Shri T.G.

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that scientists at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Trivandrum have developed an efficient and cost effective compound to recover marine oil spills;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has proposed to set up Centres of Excellence of IISER in other parts of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY)

(a) & (b): Researchers of the Indian Institute of Science Education & Research (IISER), Thiruvananthapuram, have synthesised phase-selective organogelators (PSOGs) that when applied as powder, can congeal crude oil, benzene, diesel separately from mixtures with water. These organogelators are potentially useful for combating large oil spills that contaminate sea water and threaten marine organisms. The technology, however, is still under lab-scale research mode and is too early to comment on how long it would take to put it for use on the ground and its cost-effectiveness.

(c) & (d): In addition to the existing five IISERs at Pune (Maharashtra), Kolkata (West Bengal), Mohali (Punjab), Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh) and Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala), the Government has established two new IISERs at Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh) and Berhampur (Odisha) in 2015 and 2016 respectively.

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